

Mayor Don Keil's Mayor's Message for June, 2015

Here are some random thoughts as we slip into the hazy days of summer.

Never forget the power of Mother Nature...

We who have lived here long enough know that you can count on a flood at least once every 10 years or so. This past week-end was a scary reminder of the power of water. We dodged a bullet here in Seguin, but the tragedies just to our north in Wimberly and San Marcos remind us to never ignore the river and the damage it can do. Please consider the folks in those stricken areas in your prayers and in your charity giving.

Mother Nature can also be unkind to city projects...

It was our best intention to get phase I of the River and Mountain Street project done by July 4th, but it looks like that will not happen. The project has suffered 22 rain days, which do not include dry-out days since the first of the year. At 5 days a week, that's more than a month's worth of delays so far - probably closer to 6 weeks if you include the dry-out days. Similar delays are affecting the East Court Street repairs, the library site work, and construction of Park West.

Vacations are great...

They are essential to mental and physical wellbeing. I highly recommend that everyone take them regularly. I now realize this after having taken my first week off in 5 years. I actually read an entire book! Be advised that I will be taking vacations more frequently in the future.

Too many people are oblivious to what is going on all around them...

Seguin has two daily newspapers, and a local radio station. The city has a Public Information Officer, a website, a Facebook page, and tweets out messages throughout the day. Pretty much everything a citizen would want to know is either printed, broadcast, posted or tweeted on a daily, if not hourly basis, and this information is accessible 24 hours a day anywhere in the world. I give presentations about city activities to various groups and service clubs practically every week. I know various members of the city staff do the same. All this being said, I am continually astonished when people who should know better ask me why we are tearing up the streets.

It's good to see the city through the eyes of others...

I'd fallen into the habit of noticing only the things that need fixing around town – and there is much to be fixed. After a while, that's all I was seeing. Recently, we've had friends come visit. Some had lived here many years ago, and some were seeing Seguin for the first time. After showing them around town, I was pleasantly surprised about the praise that they had for our little town - notwithstanding the torn-up streets. We really do live in a beautiful, unique community. Yes, there is much that requires fixing, but the good news is that we are doing as much as we can to fix them.

“Texas Rising” has been a big disappointment...

I was really looking forward to the History Channel’s miniseries about the Texas Revolution. When I first heard about it, I thought - finally, a serious, truthful account of a very important part of our history. Was I ever wrong! It is inaccurate, hokey, and lame. For crying out loud, we do not live in a dusty desert surrounded by tall mountains! Gonzales is not perched high on a mountain ridge with a few scruffy pine trees. You do not ride north from Gonzales to Victoria! Texians did not dress like that! The only good thing in the movie is that Juan Seguin has a very visible and positive presence in the story.

The 4th of July will be fun...

Freedom Fiesta, the “Biggest Small Town Parade in Texas”, and the grand finale fireworks display make this my favorite holiday. The parade marshalls this year will be Danny and Cecilia DeLaGarza of El Ranchito Restaurant. El Ranchito has been THE place to meet, greet and eat in Seguin for 75 years. It is a great American success story, and I am proud they are leading the parade this year.

Gosh I love this town!